

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 8, 9, and 11 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Scaffolding for supporting a worker elevated above the ground, said scaffolding comprising:

a walkboard presenting a support surface on which the worker may be supported,
said walkboard including a coupling element projecting downwardly relative to the support
surface; and

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a scaffold frame configured to support the walkboard above the ground,
said frame including a pair of spaced apart upright support posts,
said frame further including a ledger coupled to the support posts and extending
therebetween to define a longitudinal ledger axis,
said ledger including an outer wall that presents an upper walkboard bearing surface
extending along the ledger axis, with the walkboard being supported on the bearing
surface,

said bearing surface being arcuate.

said ledger further presenting a plurality of open slots defined in the bearing surface at points
spaced along the ledger axis, with each of the slots extending entirely through the
outer wall,

a first one of said slots receiving the coupling element therein to generally prevent the
walkboard from shifting along the ledger axis while enabling the walkboard to shift
in at least one direction nonparallel to the ledger axis.

2. (Original) Scaffolding as claimed in claim 1,
said outer wall extending about the ledger axis to define a generally hollow interior of the
ledger,
said open slots communicating with the hollow interior of the ledger,
said outer wall presenting a bottom drain opening spaced below the bearing surface,
said drain opening communicating with the hollow interior of the ledger.

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3. (Original) Scaffolding as claimed in claim 2,
said outer wall having a generally inverted U-shaped cross-section relative to the ledger axis,
such that the outer wall includes a substantially horizontal web section and a pair of
depending substantially vertical flanges,
said bearing surface being defined by the web section,
said drain opening being defined between the flanges.

4. (Original) The scaffolding as claimed in claim 3,
each of said support posts being cylindrical so as to define a generally circular horizontal
cross sectional shape,
said flanges being configured so that each support post is at least partially received between
the flanges.

5. (Withdrawn) The scaffolding as claimed in claim 1,
said coupling element comprising an elongated headed fastener including a shank.

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6. (Original) The scaffolding as claimed in claim 1,
said walkboard including a horizontally extending plank presenting said support surface and
at least one sidewall coupled to the plank,
said sidewall including at least a portion thereof extending vertically from the plank and
engaging the bearing surface,
said at least a portion of the sidewall comprising the coupling element.

7. (Original) The scaffolding as claimed in claim 6,
said walkboard including an additional sidewall horizontally spaced from the first-mentioned
sidewall and including at least a portion thereof extending vertically from the plank
and engaging the bearing surface,
a second one of said slots receiving said at least a portion of the additional sidewall.

8. (Currently Amended) Scaffolding for supporting a worker elevated above the
ground, said scaffolding comprising:
a walkboard presenting a support surface on which the worker may be supported,
said walkboard including a coupling element projecting downwardly relative to the support
surface; and
a scaffold frame configured to support the walkboard above the ground,
said frame including a pair of spaced apart upright support posts,
said frame further including a ledger coupled to the support posts and extending
therebetween to define a longitudinal ledger axis,

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said ledger including an outer wall that presents an upper walkboard bearing surface extending along the ledger axis, with the walkboard being supported on the bearing surface,

said wall including a plurality of slot-defining edges that cooperatively present a generally orthogonal shaped slot in which the coupling element is received,

said edges including a recessed edge spaced below the bearing surface and extending along the ledger axis,

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said edges further including a pair of abutment edges spaced along the ledger axis, with the abutment edges projecting substantially perpendicularly from the recessed edge and extending to the bearing surface to generally prevent the walkboard from shifting along the ledger axis when the coupling element engages one of the abutment edges while enabling the walkboard to shift in at least one direction nonparallel to the ledger axis.

9. (Currently Amended) Scaffolding as claimed in claim 8,

~~said bearing surface and~~ said recessed edge being substantially flat and parallel to ~~one another~~ at least a portion of said bearing surface.

10. (Original) Scaffolding as claimed in claim 9,

said recessed edge terminating at opposite ends spaced along the ledger axis,
said abutment edges projecting from the opposite ends.

11. (Currently Amended) The scaffolding as claimed in claim 8,
shifting of the walkboard along the ledger axis being prevented in a first direction when said
coupling element engages a first one of the abutment edges,
shifting of the walkboard along the ledger axis being prevented in a second direction
opposite the first direction when said coupling element engages the other abutment
edge,
said first and second directions being nonparallel to said at least one direction.

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12. (Withdrawn) The scaffolding as claimed in claim 8,
said coupling element comprising an elongated headed fastener including a shank.

13. (Original) The scaffolding as claimed in claim 8,
said walkboard including a horizontally extending plank presenting said support surface and
at least one flange coupled to the plank,
said flange including at least a portion thereof extending vertically from the plank,
said at least a portion of the flange comprising the coupling element.

14. (Original) The scaffolding as claimed in claim 13,
said walkboard including an additional coupling element projecting downwardly relative to
the support surface,
said walkboard including an additional flange horizontally spaced from the first-mentioned
flange and including at least a portion thereof extending vertically from the plank,

said wall including an additional plurality of slot-defining edges that cooperatively present an additional generally orthogonal shaped slot in which the additional coupling element is received,

said additional slot being configured substantially like said first-mentioned slot and being horizontally spaced therefrom,

said at least a portion of the additional flange comprising the additional coupling element.

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15. (Original) The scaffolding as claimed in claim 8,

said outer wall extending about the ledger axis to define a generally hollow interior of the ledger,

said slot defining an opening between the plurality of slot-defining edges,

said opening communicating with the hollow interior of the ledger.

16. (Original) The scaffolding as claimed in claim 15,

said outer wall having a generally inverted U-shaped cross-section relative to the ledger axis, such that the outer wall includes a substantially horizontal web section and a pair of depending substantially vertical sidewalls,

said bearing surface being defined by the web section,

said outer wall presenting a bottom drain opening defined between the flanges,

said drain opening being spaced below the bearing surface and communicating with the hollow interior of the ledger.

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17. (Original) The scaffolding as claimed in claim 16,
each of said support posts being cylindrical so as to define a generally circular horizontal
cross sectional shape,
said sidewalls being configured so that each support post is at least partially received
between the sidewalls.

18. (Original) The scaffolding as claimed in claim 8,
said plurality of slot-defining edges including an additional recessed edge spaced below the
bearing surface and extending along the ledger axis,
said additional recessed edge being horizontally spaced from the first-mentioned recessed
edge and generally coplanar therewith,
said abutment edges projecting substantially perpendicularly from the additional recessed
edge.

Please add new claims 19-21 as follows:

19. (New) Scaffolding for supporting a worker elevated above the ground, said
scaffolding comprising:
a walkboard presenting a support surface on which the worker may be supported,
said walkboard including a horizontally extending plank presenting said support surface and
at least one flange coupled to the plank,
said flange including at least a portion thereof extending vertically from the plank; and
a scaffold frame configured to support the walkboard above the ground,

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said frame including a pair of spaced apart upright support posts,
said frame further including a ledger coupled to the support posts and extending
therebetween to define a longitudinal ledger axis,
said ledger including an arcuate outer wall that presents an upper surface extending along the
ledger axis,

said wall including a plurality of slot-defining edges that cooperatively present a generally
orthogonal shaped slot in which the flange is received,

said support surface extending beyond both sides of the ledger when the flange is received
in the slot,

said edges including a pair of recessed edges spaced below the upper surface and extending
along the ledger axis,

said recessed edges being spaced on either side of the ledger axis,

said edges further including a pair of abutment edges spaced along the ledger axis, with the
abutment edges projecting substantially perpendicularly between the recessed edges
and extending to the bearing surface to generally prevent the walkboard from shifting
along the ledger axis when the flange engages one of the abutment edges.

20. (New) The scaffolding as claimed in claim 19,
said outer wall extending about the ledger axis to define a generally hollow interior of the
ledger,
said slot defining an opening between the plurality of slot-defining edges,
said opening communicating with the hollow interior of the ledger.

21. (New) The scaffolding as claimed in claim 20,
said outer wall having a generally inverted U-shaped cross-section relative to the ledger axis,
such that the outer wall includes a substantially horizontal web section and a pair of
depending substantially vertical sidewalls,
said upper surface being defined by the web section,
said outer wall presenting a bottom drain opening defined between the sidewalls,
said drain opening being spaced below the upper surface and communicating with the hollow
interior of the ledger.

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